

these people who is locked up as opposed to what might be spent by somebody in society if they were not out? Maybe if they were out they'd have a job and be paying taxes, so instead of costing twenty-something thousand dollars they'd be contributing to society and helping to retire the national debt, Senator Witek, and your school district might have a penny less that it has to assess or levy because this guy's now out here working making money. I think Senator Wehrbein has a very good amendment and I hope we will adopt it and, Senator Witek, I hope you won't offer that stuff that you were talking about seeing now that it's nonsense, more or less.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: I have information that was given to me by one of the senators on the floor here and it does give me the adult prison population projections. In June 1996, there were 3,008; June 1997, 3,311, so we do already have a lot of this information that is being requested here. The specific reasons for the growth in the adult prison population, again, are more people have committed crimes and have been sentenced to prison. That's...that's part of the study. I don't know why we have to take up some of the Department of Correctional Services' time to give us this information. Why don't we just ask for...I mean, I've got it here, people can use that. And, as far as suggesting policy, legal and program alternatives, we have a lot of those suggestions here. (LB) 988 on the juvenile area has already got a lot of those. Senator Pedersen, who's very involved in the program area, suggests program alternatives all the time. What I think that mostly this amendment is for is to try to make it look like we don't already know that we need a facility, and we do know that we need a new facility and nobody wants to make, because Senator Maurstad's amendments all failed, nobody wants to make that commitment to putting in a new facility. They don't want to try to raise the revenues. They don't want to cut back the budget at all in order to do that. They want to keep spending money on all of their other little pet programs instead of actually putting it into a new facility. And so, by putting this together, we're going to make it look like we don't have the information available to tell us at this time that we need a new facility or that we're going to have this projected growth that we do have, and it's right here in front of us, and we're going to make it look like we don't have it so that's why we're not making the decision now, when we all